



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service

## Fact Sheet

### *WTO and Agriculture* *What's at Stake for Louisiana?*

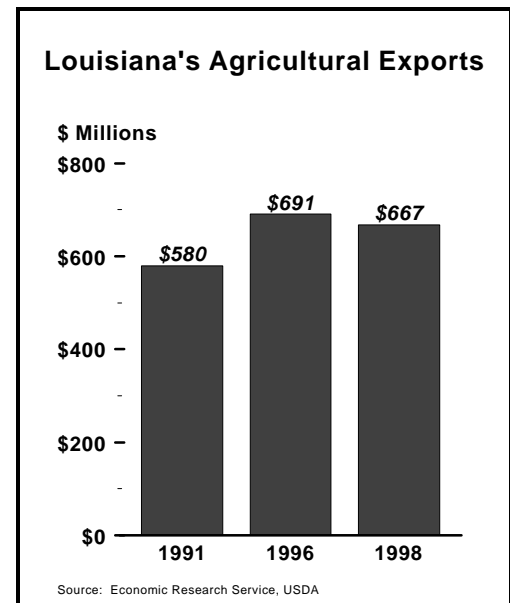
#### October 1999

Louisiana produces agricultural, solid wood, and fishery products that are exported worldwide. In 1998, its farm cash receipts and commercial fish landings/aquaculture production totaled \$1.9 billion and \$344 million, respectively. Forest industry shipments were \$1.8 billion in 1996. As for agricultural exports, Louisiana's shipments were estimated at \$667 million in 1998. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 10,100 jobs both on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Exports important to Louisiana's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports is about 35 percent.

The top agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # rice – \$169 million
- # cotton – \$134 million
- # soybeans and products -- \$131 million

World demand is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Louisiana's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for the export opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.



#### Louisiana Benefits from Trade Agreements

- # As the nation's 3rd largest producer of rice, Louisiana should benefit under the Uruguay Round as Japan and South Korea open their rice markets. Japan established a tariff-rate quota that will increase to 758,000 tons in 2000. Korea lifted its import ban and established a quota that will increase to 205,228 tons by 2004.
- # Louisiana benefits under the Uruguay Round, as Hong Kong and Malaysia bound their cotton tariffs at zero.